NCI-Bethesda ACUC

April 2007

Newsletter Contents

LASP Personnel Changes

NCI Facility Manager

Mr. Andrew Okoth was hired in January 2007 as the facility manager for building 10/CRC. If you require assistance for this facility, please contact Andrew by email at okotha@mail.nih.gov or by phone 301-451-6976.

ACUC Coordinator

After almost two years as the NCI-Bethesda ACUC Coordinator, Ms. Lindsey Briglio-Morgan left NCI in November 2006 and moved to North Carolina.

Ms. Christine (Tina) Sadr was hired as the new NCI-Bethesda ACUC Coordinator. If you require any assistance for Animal Study Proposals or animal-related activities, please contact Tina by email at sadrc@mail.nih.gov or by phone 301-435-5733.

LASP Secretary

After three years of dedicated service, Ms. Faith Ulzheimer left the LASP-Bethesda in February 2007 to begin her well-deserved retirement. We are currently recruiting for this position.

Animal Study Proposal Submissions

Is your proposal ready to be renewed or does it need to be modified? Are you looking to create a new animal study proposal (ASP)? If so, please review the following key points for ASP development:

- Use the current NCI ASP form. In order to comply with various regulations, the LASP-Bethesda form frequently requires updating and modification. To ensure that you are working with the most recent version, please use the form directly from the LASP website link below.
- Ensure individuals included in the ASP and modifications have completed the required training. These requests cannot be approved until this has been completed.

OACU Online Course: Required for investigators and animal users (refresher course required every three years)

http://oacu.od.nih.gov/training/index.htm

AESP (Animal Exposure Surveillance Program): Required for individuals who are involved with the direct care of animals including their living quarters or have direct contact with animals, their viable tissues, body fluids or waste.

Contact OMS (Occupational Medical Services) at 301-496-4411 to enroll)

MTBM-M/R Testing – A Replacement for MAP Testing

Protecting the health status of experimental animals from infectious disease is critical for obtaining valid, reliable data. An important potential source of viral infections that are introduced into an animal facility is contaminated biological materials that are injected into live animals. Biological materials include tumor cell lines, stem cells, serum, antibodies and other materials which may have been produced in the presence of serum from infected mice or rats or become contaminated during processing in the laboratory.

The Mouse/Rat Antibody Production (MAP/RAP) test has been the method of choice for screening biological materials, however due to the considerable disadvantages of time and cost, investigators should now consider the Molecular Testing of Biological Materials – Mouse/Rat (MTBM-M/R) as the test of choice.

Comparison of the molecular-based assay with the traditional MAP/RAP test suggests that for the detection of representative mouse DNA and RNA viruses in tissue culture samples, the PCR technique used in MTBM-M/R had equal or greater sensitivity and now costs less to run. The results are returned in 10 days to 2 weeks, whereas the MAP/RAP testing results take 5-6 weeks.

For more information about the requirements for this testing,

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including specific materials that can be tested, modified sample preparation and necessary paperwork, please review the following NCI-ACUC policy and the Animal Health Diagnostic Lab (AHDL) website that includes the electronic submission form:

http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/acuc/beth/MapRapTesting.asp

http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/ahdl/

LASP Animal Facility and ASP Online Access System

The Laboratory Animal Sciences Program (LASP) is pleased to announce the availability of its new LASP Animal Facility and Animal Study Proposal (ASP) Access System to assist investigators with the management of their animal colony activities. This online system provides interested investigators with current animal inventory data in NCI animal facilities as well as an overview of the active Animal Study Proposals in both Frederick and Bethesda. The goal is to promote communication between the facility and the investigative staff to ensure that records are properly maintained and to provide an online resource for investigators to make colony management decisions.

Any principal investigators listed on active ASP documents (in Frederick or Bethesda) that are interested in obtaining account access to this system should send Michelle Ahalt an email at ahaltm@ncifcfr.gov. Once your account has been established, you will receive access and log-in instructions by email to begin utilizing this system. LASP plans to expand the capabilities of the system based on user input and recommendations – so please feel free to forward your comments. We hope that you find this system to be a valuable tool for your research activities.

Group Seminar Opportunity

The Animal Well-Being Interest Group (AWIG) is holding a seminar entitled "Understanding and Managing Pain and Distress in Laboratory Animals" on Thursday, May 3, at the Lipsett Auditorium.

This seminar focuses on understanding and minimizing pain and distress in laboratory animals. Speakers will present innovative ways to assess pain or distress in animals and review the associated ethical and practical considerations that may be experienced by animals used in biomedical research.

The scheduled speakers and topics are:

- Dr. John Dennis (NCI) – "Understanding and managing pain and distress in laboratory animals"
- Alicia Karas (Tufts University) – "The immunologic impact of anesthetics and analgesics in the context of the systematic response to injury"
- John Tyburski (NCI) – "Metabolomics as a potential noninvasive approach to monitoring the health and well-being of research animals."
- Bernard Rollin (Colorado State University) – "Historical skepticism regarding assessments of pain and distress in laboratory animals."

Registration is free but required for attendance. Please register online at http://fmp-8.cit.nih.gov/awig/

The registration deadline is April 23!

Useful Resources:

This resource manual highlights the extensive resources available for cancer research at the Jackson Laboratory and briefly describes JAX mice cancer models, publicly accessible databases, courses and conferences on and related to cancer research and cancer research conducted by Jackson Laboratory scientists.

http://jaxmice.jax.org/literature/manuals/cancer.pdf?WT.mc_id=201326

This manual describes breeding strategies and techniques for maintaining colonies of laboratory mice. These techniques have been developed and used by the Jackson Laboratory for over 75 years and are safe, reliable, economical, efficient and ensure that the mouse strains produced are genetically well defined.

http://jaxmice.jax.org/literature/manuals/breeding_strategies_manual.pdf?WT.mc_id=201343